

removing a peripheral portion of said expanded laser beam through a mask to form a masked laser beam, said peripheral portion including at least edges of said expanded laser beam extending in said first direction; and

condensing said masked laser beam in a second direction orthogonal to said first direction after removing said peripheral portion so as to decrease a second cross-sectional dimension of said masked laser beam to form a condensed laser beam, said second cross-sectional dimension being orthogonal to said first cross-sectional dimension and said condensed laser beam having a line-shaped transverse cross-section at the object.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for treating an object with a laser comprising the steps of:

emitting a rectangular-shaped laser beam from the laser;

expanding said laser beam in a first direction so as to increase a first cross-sectional dimension of said laser beam to form an expanded laser beam;

removing a peripheral portion of said expanded laser beam through a mask to form a masked laser beam, said peripheral portion including at least edges of said expanded laser beam extending in said first direction; and

condensing said masked laser beam in a second direction orthogonal to said first direction after removing said peripheral portion so as to decrease a second cross-sectional dimension of said masked laser beam to form a condensed laser beam, said second cross-sectional dimension being orthogonal to said first cross-sectional dimension and said condensed laser beam having a line-shaped transverse cross-section at the object.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for treating an object with a laser comprising the steps of:

emitting a laser beam from the laser;

expanding said laser beam in a first direction so as to increase a first cross-sectional dimension of said laser beam to form an expanded laser beam;

removing a peripheral portion of said expanded laser beam through a mask to form a masked laser beam, said peripheral portion including at least edges of said expanded laser beam extending in said first direction;

condensing said masked laser beam in a second direction orthogonal to said first direction so as to decrease a second cross-sectional dimension of said masked laser beam to form a condensed laser beam, said second cross-sectional dimension being orthogonal to said first cross-sectional dimension and said condensed laser beam having a line-shaped transverse cross-section at the object; and

changing the relative location of said object with respect to said laser beam so that said object is scanned with said laser beam.

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Advisory Action of September 1, 1995, and, when considered in combination with Applicants' "Amendment After Final" filed August 24, 1995, to be fully responsive to the Office Action of June 6, 1995. For the reasons outlined below, it is requested that the present